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Message Text

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42
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 XMB-02 L-02 SP-02 /032 W
---------- 124050
P R 221500Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6326
INFO USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, GB, US
SUBJ: SANTA CLARA MINERAL PORT - SOROS PROPOSAL

DEPT PASS EXIM

USDOC FOR STEPHEN CONGER

REF: PARIS 09203

1. SUMMARY: SOROS ARRIVED LIBREVILLE EVENING APRIL 17 AND DEPARTED MORNING APRIL 22. CONTRACT FOR ENGINEERING AND DESIGN OF MINERAL PORT NOT SIGNED BUT STRONG LIKELIHOOD THAT IT WILL BE IN ABOUT TWO WEEKS. END SUMMARY.

2. SOROS MET WITH PRESIDENT BONGO, MINISTERS OF STATE RAWIRI AND MBOUY-BOUTZIT AND MINISTER OF FINANCE MOUKAMBI. ALSO HAD WORKING SESSIONS WITH PORT DIRECTOR DAMAS AND OTHER GOG OFFICIALS.

3. MEETING WITH BONGO WENT WELL AND PRESIDENT ALONG WITH ALL MINISTERS FAVORABLE TO PROJECT AND GAVE IT IN EFFECT GREEN LIGHT. MINOR DIFFICULTIES DEVELOPED AT LOWER LEVELS (MAINLY WITH DAMAS) WITH GOG TECHNICAL EXPERTS ASKING FOR GREATER DETAILS, SMALL CHANGES AND ADDITIONAL TIME TO STUDY CONTRACT.

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4. FOLLOWING FINAL MEETING WITH DAMAS APRIL 21, SOROS

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CONVINCED THAT SMALL CHANGES OR SPELLING OUT REQUESTED
BY GOG OFFICIAL SPRESENT NO REPEAT NO PROBLEM. SOROS
AND DAMAS AGREED TO KEEP IN TOUCH BY TELEX AND MEET IN
PARIS MAY 4. CONTRACT CAN HOPEFULLY BE SIGNED AT THAT
TIME FOR POSSIBLY FEW DAYS LATER IN LIBREVILLE. SOROS
HOPEFUL HE WILL NOT HIMSELF NEED TO RETURN TO LIBREVILLE
FOR SIGNING.

5. GOG SENDING PRELIMINARY APPLICATION TO EXIM FOR FINANCING.

6. COMMENT: IN VIEW POSITIVE DECISION BY BONGO (IN
MEETING WITH SOROS) AND FACT ALL THREE MINISTERS PRESENT
AT MEETING, QUESTION THAT SOROS WILL GET CONTRACT NO
LONGER SEEMS TO BE IN DOUBT. WHAT HAPPENED IS THAT GOG
TECHNICAL EXPERTS, WHO PRESENTED WITH CONTRACT THEY HAD
NOT HAD CHANCE TO STUDY, FELT PROFESSIONAL OBLIGATION TO
EXAMINE IT IN ORDER (A) TO DISCHARGE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES,
(B) CLARIFY AND IF POSSIBLE IMPROVE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF
CONTRACT (E.G. PRECLUDE POSSIBILITY OF DUTY FREE IMPORT
OF LIQUOR) AND (C) REDUCE, IF POSSIBLE, SETIMEG PORTION
OF CONTRACT. SETIMEG'S REMUNERATION RELATES TO VARIETY
OF SERVICES (ESSENTIALLY LAND CLEARING, HOUSING FOR
PERSONNEL, ENVIRONMENT CONTROL, AND PROCESSING MATTERS
LOCALLY THROUGH GOG BUREAUCRACY). ALTHOUGH AMOUNT
INVOLVED MAY BE DEBATABLE, IT CLEAR THAT WITHOUT GAVARY'S
INTERVENTION DIRECTLY WITH BONGO AND RAWIRI MATTER WOULD
HAVE DRAGGED ON FOR MANY MORE MONTHS IF DAMAS HAD BEEN
ALLOWED TO CONTINUE ELABORATE AND INEFFICIENT PROCEDURES
HE WAS PROPOSING TO FOLLOW.
MCKESSON

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